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**Hiltonia Association
General Meeting
Minutes**

**September 11, 2018
7:00 PM
Home of Dr. Donnie Renee Johnson**

Meeting was called to order by Lily Knezevich. There were 27 residents in attendance.

1) Minutes: Minutes from the May 10th, 2018 meeting were approved by voice vote.

2) Treasurer's Report: Jim Ambrosio presented. As of August 31, the Association checking account balance was \$2,590.00. The House Tour savings account had \$2,746.75, and the Certificate of Deposit had \$5,252.09 for a grand total of \$10,589.44.

3) Committee Reports (oral reports)

A. Civic: Paulette Ayres reported that the dog attack on Kensington that resulted in the death of a pet cat and injuries to the owner and a bystander, was discussed at the CPAC meeting. Apparently, police were not dispatched to the scene, despite 911 calls, because it is against City policy for police to answer calls about animals. Any type of animal issue, even an animal attack, is handled exclusively by Animal Control.

There was a lot of discussion about the incident and concern about the policy that prevents police from answering an animal attack call. It was mentioned that a letter about the attack and lack of emergency response was penned by Ray Ingram, West Ward representative to CPAC, to Police Director Medina. In the meantime, the owner of the attacking dog was issued citations and his dogs were ordered quarantined.

Mayor Reed Gusciora joined the meeting during the dog attack discussion and said it was disturbing that there were no protocols in place to deal with animal attacks. Roger Martinez, the owner of the cat that was killed, said there was no way to report the attack in writing. Reed said the City is working on a 311 system for citizen complaints. In the meantime, he said residents should call the mayor's office at 989-3030 and to ask for Andrew Bobbitt or Shakira Garcia. Reed added that the City is applying for national grants to expand the animal shelter, and to add an animal health clinic. The mayor also mentioned that Trenton is trying to find 100 "gateway" houses for demo, utilizing some of the \$11 million in demolition funds that were earmarked by the Christie administration.

Paulette brought up the issue of vacant properties. She mentioned that the vacant property at 6 Renfrew had recently been cleaned up, but that it was being "used as a public bathroom." Reed said that the owners of 6 Renfrew have been current on taxes, but that he would like to see measures put in place that would discourage owners from keeping vacant properties.

Jeannie Weakliem, co-chair with Paulette of the Civic Committee, has been attending City Council meetings. She noted that the crowds have been large—50 to 60 people. Lily said that if anyone in Hiltonia has issues of concern to email Jeannie.

B. Publicity: no report

C. Membership: Vacant

D. Social: *Children's:* Kathleen Coughlin said the Halloween party/parade is being switched to the Sunday afternoon before Halloween (October 28).

E. Hospitality: Georgia Wallar is looking for hosts for the October and December First Friday Flamingo and for someone to host the November association meeting.

F. Worthy Projects: Maureen Lebel presented a list of various organizations that the association might support. It was decided to make the Children's Chorus and Passage Theater the 2018 Worthy Projects recipients. As was done last year, the association will match individual donations to each charity, up to \$250 each. The donation period will run until Christmas. Contact Lily for further information.

G. Communications: Kathi Eckert continues revamping the association website. She has spent most of her time recently putting together an updated list of contractor recommendations. Kathi also completed an eight-page edition of *The Hilltone*.

4) Unfinished Business

Neighborhood Watch signs – Linda Reid has been working with the city on getting Neighborhood Watch signs. Lily said that although it's slow going, she'd like to see the city pay for them so that more association funds could be used for special projects.

Hiltonia 100th Anniversary-- Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey are still on the hunt for Hiltonia archives. If you have anything, let them know. Terri said she would like to do a book on the neighborhood. More information will be shared at the November meeting.

Trenton Water Works – Reed said vacant positions are being filled, and highly qualified people are being hired. TWW is working on replacing the old, galvanized pipes that currently connect homes to the supply pipes.

Next General Meeting: [Wednesday, November 7 \(TBD\) --changed from its original date](#)

Upcoming Hiltonia and related events:

September 27: CPAC Meeting, 6 p.m., Hermitage Police Station, Hermitage Ave. and Artisan (4th Thursday of every month)

September 29: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling, 8 am to 2 pm, 350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrence Township

October 5: First Friday Flamingo (hosts needed for October and December)

October 11, November 8: TCCA General Meeting, 7 p.m., Thomas Edison College, 111 W. State St.

October 28: Children's Halloween parade/party

Additional Information: